



Northwest students partnered with Maryville Public Safety for life-like-fire training. Volunteers and students experienced life-like fires, which included a burning stove and a couch.

Northwest students get hands on fire training

JAKE MCKNIGHT
News Editor | @jbmcnknight93

Northwest students had the opportunity to experience life-like firefighting with Maryville’s fire department in a training session. Equipped with all of the necessary equipment, boots, helmets, gloves and self-contained breathing apparatus, they participated in a live burn simulation.

“I think it’s great. Today we are learning stuff we don’t get a lot of practice with. I mean, today we can see and get a taste of how a fire would work and maybe learn some skills we can put to use when we fight a real fire. I think the group’s doing very well,” junior Thomas Shiffle said. According to Maryville Fire Department Lieutenant Angie Jones, students were engaged in a

structural firefighting class where the main focus was life safety and remedying the fire as quickly and safely as possible, all within a safe learning environment. “We take the live burns classroom portion and turn it into an applied application inside the structure with live fire. Inside the prop is a 53 foot semi-trailer and it has a couple of different fire props in there. It’s got a couch

and stove across the back of the trailer,” Jones said. “When they get inside the trailer, their first objective is life safety, make sure they’re safe. Then they’re trying to put the fire out, trying to medicate the best situation they can and get out of there safely.” Students were also evaluated based on time, communication, efficiency and completion as they put the fire out.

Training Coordinator and Assistant Chief Robert Shramek was the evaluator. “They know how to put their airpicks on, they’ve been trained very well. For a lot of them, it’s their first fire they’ve seen and they handled themselves very well. We haven’t had one person we had an issue with,” Shramek said.

SEE **FIREFIGHTING** | A5



Bearcat fans can now purchase Bearcat License plates with their own personalization for only \$25.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

University to release Bearcat plates

JAKE MCKNIGHT
News Editor | @jbmcnknight93

Bearcats can show their pride on the road with new university license plates. The new license plates are white with the Bearcat paw decal. Anyone can purchase the them by making a minimum donation of \$25 to the Northwest Foundation. After the donation, anyone who wants the license plate must also pay a \$15 personalization fee at their local DMV. The personalized plate cannot exceed over six characters.

Director of Alumni Relations Bob Machovsky, who started the license plates, wanted to give students the opportunity to show off their school like other universities across the state. He also said the Northwest Foundation has seen an increase in donations. “We have seen an increase of guests and students coming in to purchase these new license plates,” Machovsky said. “What’s so great about Northwest is there is so much pride among students and alumni. Bearcats love meeting new and former Bearcats whenever they

go out, so this way, they can show their spirit while on the highway.” Students have had mixed reviews about the new plates. Some argue about the cost and lack of creativity. Junior Maggie Barger wishes the plates didn’t cost as much. “I think it’s great that we have an opportunity to have our own university license plate, but for as much as we have to pay for them, I think they should have more of a design on them,” Barger said.

SEE **PLATES** | A5

Retiring professor helps host leukemia donor registration

JAMES HENDERSON III
Editor in Chief | @jendersoniii

Northwest will host a leukemia donor registration drive Tuesday, April 19, at the Foster’s Fitness Center with the help of the School of Health and Wellness and a professor who has had the disease affect his own family. Associate Professor Jeffrey Ferguson is intending to retire at the end of this year after 29 years at Northwest, but potentially the most important event of his tenure is still to come. In collaboration with the school of health and wellness, Ferguson helped organize the drive, that will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., to register donors after his 16-year-old nephew Matt Cooper was diagnosed with the disease last January. During Cooper’s fight, Ferguson saw firsthand the damage this disease can have on a family and the difficulty it can be to find a willing and matching donor. The difficulty surrounding finding a donor can be attributed to the slim chance a person can have of being a match with some-

one and the lack of people registered to donate. Ferguson speculated the reason people do not register is related to misinformation. “I think it’s the unknown,” Ferguson said. “People are a little fearful. I mean, giving blood is one thing. How many people, out of your peer group let alone mine, would go to a blood drive. I mean, we have 6,000 students on campus, what percent of them are going to give blood? Now you start talking about something like leukemia and people cringe. I mean, it’s cancer, cancer is scary. Some of the treatments for leukemia are intimidating, like my nephew who’s going to have to have a bone marrow transplant. He has gone through blood transfusions and chemo, but to survive he is eventually going to have to have a bone marrow transplant or this time next year he may not be here... It’s the fear of the unknown, I think. Donating bone marrow sounds terrifying. It’s human nature to want to do it but think it may hurt.”

SEE **LEUKEMIA** | A5

McDowell elected new mayor of Maryville, parade route approved

SHAYLEE MILLER
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Maryville’s newest mayor and mayor pro tem won with uncontested votes at this week’s city council meeting. Outgoing Mayor Renee Riedel smiled as she congratulated Maryville’s newest mayor, Jason McDowell. Riedel, who was re-elected last week to city council for a three year

term, decided to step down as mayor. McDowell and Rachel Martin, the newest mayor pro tem, were both unanimously elected by vote of the council. Before the changing of hands took place, the students of Northwest spoke on behalf of the school, requesting approval for the homecoming parade route. This subject was also unanimously approved, and the Oct. 29 homecoming parade will run along the ex-

act route as last year’s parade. Maggie Barger, a junior at Northwest majoring in psychology was also present. Barger attended for class credit for introduction to American government, but says she found the information interesting enough to want to attend more meetings. “I think after seeing that and living in Maryville my whole life, I would want to come to more,” Barger said.

However, Barger feels that unless city council is dealing with issues related to Northwest, most campus students wouldn’t find the meetings that interesting. “I think they (students) should (attend) when stuff involving Northwest is happening, like today when they voted on approving the parade route, like that’s important to Northwest; especially fraternities and sororities.” Three ordinances on the agenda were all approved with a 5-0

vote, meaning all council members approved. These ordinances include, the results of the city election involving the sales tax benefiting Mozingo, an ordinance allowing the city to forge an agreement with Maryville Transfer, LLC, and an ordinance forging an agreement with MODOT for an overlay project on North Main. The meeting concluded with council members entering executive session.

Changes come to University commencement ceremony

JAMES HENDERSON
Editor in Chief | @jendersoniii

The University no longer requires tickets for guests wanting to attend the graduation ceremony.

In the past, the commencement ceremony for undergraduate and graduate students was on the same day. Last fall, the University split the ceremony between two days, allowing undergraduate and graduate students to walk at separate times. This change not only shortened each ceremony, but allowed those graduating to bring as many guests as they wanted without presenting a ticket.

University Event Coordinator Gina Bradley is in charge of organizing the commencement ceremony and said this decision was a long time in the making.

“I have wanted to figure out a way for years that would allow me to not have tickets,” Bradley said. “I’ve been doing this for 18 years and it’s always been an issue. My daughter is just now graduating and I know what it’s like as a parent. It’s not just me, it’s grandparents, it’s friends parents, it’s an entire village of people that want to see your child walk across the stage.”

Bradley said necessity led to the decision to split the days in December. With the amount of graduate and undergraduate students that would be in attendance, each participant in the ceremony would only get four tickets to hand out. Bradley said even though this would create more work for herself and the administration, it was worth it to benefit the families.

“A lot of other institutions only give away four tickets and that’s it and that’s not the way we do things here,” Bradley said. “Dr. J, Dr. Mottet and I just want the parents



The problem of acquiring tickets for those wishing to attend commencement plagued families for years. Because of recent changes that is no longer an issue.

to be happy. So bring your village, I throw good parties.”

Students nearing graduation are excited by the University’s changes. Senior Bailey Cook will graduate next December after finishing a semester of student teaching and she said the change is definitely for the best.

“(Being able to bring anyone) means a lot and will make the process before graduation a lot easier,” Cook said. “Now that I won’t have

to search and ask friends for their extra tickets, more of my family can attend the ceremony and it is one less thing I have to worry about.”

Bradley’s belief that a “village” is required to raise a child and get them through college is echoed by Cook.

“Between families and friends, the number of those who help a student from the first day to graduation can be pretty high,” Cook said. “Support can come in many forms

and can sometimes even come from the same person but a lot of times you see a good support system come out of a large group, or ‘village’ in this instance.”

Cook is a Spanish education major and a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority. Because of her own campus involvement, she said she hopes this will open the doors to student organizations becoming a larger part of the graduation experience.

“Student organizations are a part

of that support system that students get here at Northwest. With more seats opening up, this makes it easier for those who helped us along the way watch us in one of our biggest accomplishments. I think student organizations will now get more involved in graduation in an exciting yet respectful manner,” Cook said.

Bradley said this policy change will stay in place for the foreseeable future.



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Missouri bans powdered alcohol

ANGELA LUNA
Chief Reporter | @lunie95

Members of the Missouri House of Representatives voted March 25 on a bill that prevents the sale of powdered alcohol. The bill passed on a 95-56 vote last Thursday to ban any possession or sales of powdered alcohol. Anyone who violates the bill faces a misdemeanor offense. Sponsor of HB 1325 Patricia Pike is concerned about an increase of drinking and driving as well as binge drinking in underage people. “To flood the market with more products that are very, very appealing to young people is, to me, adding to some very serious statistics for our state,” Pike said. Powdered alcohol, also known as Palcohol, can be poured into any beverage to make it alcoholic. Critics have argued that the substance would promote underage drinking. Northwest student senior Brooke Fulbright said she sees the pros and cons of Palcohol. “I think it is a very neat idea, especially if you are going on a vacation or a night out,” senior Brooke Fulbright said. “Howev-

er, minors would be able to get a hold of alcohol a lot easier.” Junior Paige Brotherton said she agreed with Fulbright’s view on the invention and sees another potential problem. “I think this is a great idea, but I think it would be very dangerous because you don’t really know how much you’re drinking or how strong it is. There might be more of a chance of someone poisoning someone’s drink, causing possible issues with date rape,” Brotherton said. Palcohol was approved by the U.S. Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau early last year. The product has not hit stores yet. College students are interested about the new form of alcohol. Northwest senior Patrick Cruz thinks Palcohol could be a better form of drinking. “I’m sad that I’ve never heard of this amazing invention,” Cruz said. “This is a really cool idea. Obviously it wouldn’t be on the shelf for anyone to buy. Plus, I think this would help businesses that sell liquor.” Missouri isn’t the only state that has banned the powdered substance. Over 20 states across the country have banned Palcohol from hitting shelves.

A quote from the official Palcohol website argues against the states that have banned the new product saying banning the substance is not the answer. “A proposed ban of powdered alcohol in other states is denying millions of responsible adults and hundreds of businesses a chance to use this legal, safe and revolutionary new product that has applications in medicine, energy, hospitality, the military, manufacturing, etc. as well as reducing the carbon footprint by being so much lighter to ship than liquid alcohol.” Representative Tracy McCreery agrees with the company that the ban isn’t necessary across the state. “Let the free market work this out. Let law enforcement do its job. Alcohol is already illegal for young people. If we would put some money behind actually enforcing alcohol laws that we already have, maybe we wouldn’t have as much of a problem with teenage and underage drinking,” McCreery said. Missouri will not be experiencing the new trend. The future of Palcohol seems nonexistent for the Show-Me State.

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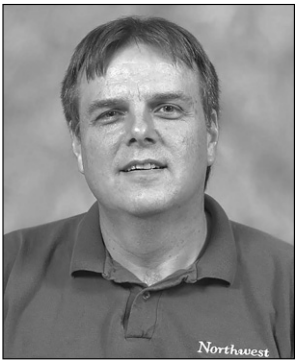
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Retiring faculty near end of final semester

BETH POTROFF

Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Northwest Missouri State University will soon celebrate the legacy of retiring faculty members.

The reception will take place Friday, April 22, at 3 p.m. in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

The retirees are Judy Clark, Ph.D., Robert Dewhirst Ph.D., Jeff Ferguson Ph.D., Nancy Foley Ph.D., Phil Laber Ph.D., Janet Reusser Ph.D., John Shaw Ph.D., Rheba Vetter Ph.D. and Craig Warner, Ph.D.

Clarke was the assistant professor of computer science and information systems. She began working

at Northwest in 1997 and will retire July 31.

Dewhirst taught political science. He began working at Northwest in 1983 and will retire May 27.

Ferguson was an associate professor of recreation. He began working at Northwest in 1987 and will retire August 16.

Foley was an associate professor of professional education. She began working at Northwest in 2000 and will retire August 1.

Laber was an art professor. He began working at Northwest in 1976 and will retire July 31.

Reusser was a health and physical education professor. She began

working at Northwest in 1992 and will retire May 2.

Shaw was an associate professor of physics. He began working at Northwest in 1988 and will retire May 31.

Vetter was an associate professor of health and physical education. She began working at Northwest in 2002 and will retire May 2.

Warner was an associate professor of art. He began working at Northwest in 1998 and retired Dec. 31, 2015.

Warner's best memories teaching at Northwest were watching 3D animation students working together. Students had to learn how

to work with difficult software and think of their own ideas. Then they had to figure out how to express those ideas visually. Warner will miss his senior seminar class.

"I will miss casual moments in senior seminar, sharing very practical strategies for portfolio preparation and job searching," Warner said.

Warner anticipates reading a lot in his spare time. He is looking forward to applying for patent concepts and doing digital illustration or animation for non-profit organizations. He also wants to spend time helping his children, building prototypes and maybe writing a novel.

Junior Courtney Leinen took digital photography and computer graphics with Warner.

"He was a fun teacher," Leinen said. "He would sometimes interrupt class to teach us self defense. He did a good job of making classes interesting."

Sophomore Josh Grossman took creative photography with Laber.

"He's a really cool dude," Grossman said. "He's really good at giving your artwork helpful critiques that make you a better artist."

The nine retiring faculty members share 220 years of teaching experience between them, passing the baton to educators of the future.

Missouri bill would mandate suicide awareness training

BETH POTROFF

Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

New policies concerning suicide may help and educate many people.

The Missouri State Senate passed a bill that will require the Missouri Department of Education to create training guidelines and require districts to adopt youth suicide awareness and prevention policies. The bill will now be sent to the House.

Senators Jill Schupp and Bob Onder both support the policies. The policies would allow training to be offered for educators.

According to the website save.org, suicide is the second leading

cause of death for 15 to 24 year olds and takes the lives of more than 38,000 Americans every year. Each day in America there is an average of over 5,400 suicide attempts by students from grades seventh to twelfth.

Studies from the website healthychildren.org show that at least 90 percent of teenagers or children who kill themselves have some type of mental health problem. These problems can come in the form of depression, anxiety, drug or alcohol abuse, or some sort of behavioral issue. Teenagers or children may also have problems at school or with friends or family. Some teenagers or children could have been

victims of sexual or physical abuse. Usually teenagers or children have had problems for some time.

Senior Dakota Phillips is an education major. She graduates this spring and hopes to teach elementary children. She thinks that it is very important for children and teenagers to be educated about suicide awareness and prevention.

"Suicide is a big issue and it needs to be addressed so that students know they have other options than taking their own lives," Phillips said.

Phillips thinks that by educating children and teenagers about suicide awareness and prevention, they will be more aware of how negative ac-

tions like bullying can affect others.

Phillips also said she would like it if school counselors would talk to students about strategies to use when they are feeling stressed or depressed. She also thinks health classes could benefit students by talking about suicide statistics and different organizations that could help students who are feeling depressed or being bullied.

Sophomore Jordan Reece thinks it is a great idea for schools to have a suicide awareness and prevention program.

"More people struggle with depression than others would like to believe or think," Reece said, "I feel that if other people know differ-

ent ways to handle suicidal thoughts there would be less negative consequences of suicidal actions."

Northwest Missouri State University has a suicide prevention program called Project Hope which helps prevent suicide and suicide-related behaviors through education, promotion of mental health and encouragement of help-seeking behaviors. The project also helps foster a healthy learning environment.

Northwest offers a variety of suicide prevention resources under the wellness services page as well. There are resources for students, veterans, parents, faculty and staff that provide statistics and general information about suicide.

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COLIN VAUGHAN

After Justin Bieber debuted with dreadlocks, multiple videos surfaced arguing Bieber’s hair style was racist and raised the issue of “Cultural Appropriation.” The videos argue Bieber is an example of someone stealing from another culture and degrading it.

OUR VIEW:

GOP struggles to distance itself from Trump

June 16, 2015, Donald Trump announced his candidacy in the 2016 presidential race. Looking back, this day can also be considered the day the Grand Old Party (GOP) was informed it had been infected with a deadly disease. At the time, no one knew the disruptive force that is the “Make America Great Again” campaign. Ted Cruz originally welcomed Trump.

“I’m pleased to welcome Donald Trump into the race for the 2016 Republican nomination for president of the United States. His experience as a successful businessman and job creator will prove crucial to ensuring the eventual GOP nominee is not only well-equipped to defeat Hillary Clinton in November, but also to make America great again,” Cruz said.

However, Cruz’s statements may have been based in a mindset that Trump had no chance of winning the nomination. Trump’s announcement speech featured preposterous ideas about a wall along America’s southern border (which Mexico would pay for), claims about Mexicans being rapists and, somewhere

in the rambling, an elegant metaphor tying together Tom Brady, China and the American leadership.

“People say, ‘Oh, you don’t like China.’ No, I love them. But their leaders are much smarter than our leaders, and we can’t sustain ourselves with that. There’s too much. It’s like — it’s like, take the New England Patriots and Tom Brady and have them play your high school football team. That’s the difference between China’s leaders and our leaders,” Trump said.

To Cruz, the Democratic National Committee (which released its own sarcastic statement about finally having a “serious” Republican candidate), the GOP and a majority of the American population, the Trump 2016 campaign looked to be a joke. His speech was nonsensical babbling from a man teetering on the brink of insanity. Unfortunately, this horrifically radical rhetoric would become the platform for a campaign rivaling that of Hitler’s in not only message, but popularity.

Since his injection into the GOP, the Trump disease has spread through the party faster than the common cold but with the deadly force of HIV. From the moment his campaign went from a joke around the water cooler to a daily headline generator, the GOP has done all it can to distance itself from the billionaire-tyrant-in-waiting. Sadly, for anyone holding strong to the conservative values and strength of the Republican party of old, Nov. 8, 2016, will be the death of the GOP regardless of whether or not he gets the nomination.

The GOP has a choice: allow a misogynistic, racist psychopath with nearly no chance to win be the face of the party or drive a deep, and potentially irreversible, divide in the party that would cripple it in a race against the DNC. No matter what decision the GOP makes going forward, it will be in no place to compete against either a Clinton or Sanders campaign, and the Democrats would control the presidency for 12 consecutive years.

Not only do the Democrats have a larger backing, but they are clearly the more stable party. The GOP is struggling with an unclear direction, destructive inner-turmoil and little to no real leadership.

With the progress of LGBT rights, the Black Lives Matter campaign and a push for higher wages and affordable healthcare, it is clear the nation is shifting toward a left-leaning mindset as is. And as the GOP struggles to fit in with the liberal nation, the organization finds itself without a true identity. Split on nearly every major issue, the party is more interested in battling itself than uniting to gain a fighting chance against the Democrats.

The dismantling of the GOP at the hands of Donald Trump and his passionate following is working to continue America’s progress toward the left. The GOP can fight the Trumpian disease all it wants, but the nail was set in its coffin the moment Trump made the world aware of the power of the combover.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Stroller fails to tackle greater issues

RACHELLE BAILEY

During my time at Northwest, the Northwest Missourian has been anything but consistent. Does anyone else remember when our school was mistakenly renamed “Northwest”? Despite this, the paper has aptly displayed the triumphs and pitfalls surrounding student-led work. I can honestly admit I have rarely read the paper in its entirety. Instead, like many of my fellow Bearcats, I focus in on specific sections. My personal favorite was the often controversial opinion piece known as “The Stroller.”

I should place emphasis on the “was.” This year marks the first time I can remember a female “stroller.” When I first discovered the feature would be written by a woman, I was excited. In a world increasingly focused on issues of social justice and equality, an opinion piece written from the female perspective could be nothing short of liberating. At minimum, a woman’s point of view about issues important to the campus community would now be possible with the shield of anonymity. How very wrong I was.

Instead of focusing on worldwide issues affecting women (educational and employment inequality; reproductive and maternal healthcare and rights) or simply scaling back to the problems surrounding females on the Northwest campus (slut-shaming, sexual assault) or, taking gender completely out of the scenario, a discussion of any relevant issue for our targeted age group, “the Stroller” talks about nothing of substance. Instead, “our woman” wants you (and by you, I mean men) to “make plans, be more romantic, buy her flowers for no reason, and hold her hand” while also

“going out with your friends, giving her necessary space, allowing her to be irrational,” and, let’s not forget, living in “work camps for men to spend all their time cooking, cleaning and rearing the children while women go out and party” (quoted from one of the worst attempts at satire I have ever read).

These articles are surface material meant to be cute and funny while creating no controversy. No controversy in an anonymous opinion piece? No discussion of any issue relevant to the campus community, let alone women? My focus here is not to say the column itself is not fulfilling its role as an opinion piece (which, as per the name, can be written about anything surrounding one’s own opinion), but rather that “the Stroller” has a certain amount of power on campus. Women are rarely given the power to have an opinion on important topics without fear of backlash for being “pushy,” “condescending” or “impossible.” If you don’t believe me, check out the description of the “New York Times” first female executive editor Jill Abramson. But, as a female writer for a piece with an unknown face and unlimited possibilities, why not delve into deeper waters?

As a woman, I am not writing this to devalue the opinions of “the Stroller” but rather to encourage her to be brave, to branch out and to be unafraid to discuss the hard topics. Use your anonymous voice to show women care about our campus, community and nation in addition to relationships and romance. The only way we will ever have any influence over the topics directly affecting our lives and our bodies is by joining in on the conversation.

Athenian culture not as perfect as it seems



REID LATIMER
Contributing Columnist

The things I’ve seen and experienced during my three months studying in Athens have been so haltingly awesome that I sometimes become disheartened when I have to remind myself, ‘Reid, you are on an outdoor rooftop in the main square of Athens, drinking red wine out of bottomless copper mugs, eating handmade moussaka and holding casual conversation while the entire Acropolis is lit up at night out of the corner of your eye, obstructed by nothing, except for comfort, through repeated exposure to the marvelous.’

Since I’ve arrived in Greece, I’ve taught myself to relax, slowly, into the cultural and physical differences of this space. I remember on my first night in Athens, I walked with a sizeable group of American strangers down the main street of our district, Aghia Paraskevi, and I wondered why almost every wall and reachable outcropping was covered in graffiti.

I remember holding my wallet in my front pocket, covered by a pocketed hand every time I rode on the metro, or went to one of the centers of Athens, Syntagma or Monastiraki (whose first Google result shows up as, How to Avoid Pickpockets in Monastiraki).

As these reactions to a strange and new place subsided, other less tangible, more permanent ones have come to the fore. It took more than a few weeks for me to realize that I was (as I am also in the United States, or anywhere else in the world) looking at life from an extremely privileged position. The first suggestion of this American privilege was when Eleni, a friend from school, asked me if I liked being in Greece. I answered, “The people are wonderful, the country is beautiful...I love it.” Eleni’s barbed response was, “Of course. You don’t have to live in this s***hole.”

I was again confronted by myopic views of Greece when discussing the refugee crisis with a graduate student who is studying coastal engineering on Lesbos, the island on which the refugees arrive from Turkey after braving the Mediterranean. I asked him what he thought of the photo-documented activism of Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, who had been in Lesbos and various major European cities trying to expose the crisis to the world. Where I thought the artwork was provocative and really beneficial to helping me ‘realize’ the situation, my friend had to deal with the actual reality of the situation, “[The art], it’s like a puppy... you see it once, then, okay...” and waved his hands, as if done with a bad plate of olives.

This is the manner in which one encounters the Greek econo-

my. No matter how hard you try to have a meaningful conversation with a Greek, no matter how many bar-graphs and pie-charts you analyze, how many “Wall Street Journal” and “Economist” articles you read, you will always be skating on the surface of the ice that Greek people are living in on a daily basis. You hear the same story of parents who now have to borrow money from their children because their pension was taken away or because they lost their job. You see the same pattern of two- and three-story living complexes that now stand as skeletons of what once was a first-world countries potential, a European country.

The graffiti? It becomes part of the exterior design, without government funding to remove it. The economy? Perhaps it cannot become anything except for what it constantly is, a crisis that can’t be made casual through repetition, or comfortable in the corner of an eye. From the non-existent look of it, from the rumors that no one can really claim have basis, the sense is this: things will probably get worse before they get better.

In the context of another crisis, global warming and climate change, I found the dorm security guard’s accented anecdote to be especially fitting, after I had asked him what Greece was like in 2004, during the Olympics: “That was like summer. Now...now we are in winter.”



JACOB MCKNIGHT | NW MISSOURIAN
Northwest students and local volunteer firefighters participated in a live burn training class.

LEUKEMIA

CONTINUED FROM A1

The registry drive next Tuesday will not consist of any actual donations. The drive is being held to register people onto a list of possible donors in the future. Those who register will receive a cheek swab and have their DNA placed in the database. Once in the registry the odds of being called to donate after are 1 in 512, according to Ferguson.

According to bethematch.org, the registry is in need for donations from people ages 18-44, especially those with ethnic background. Many factors go into whether or not someone would be a match and backgrounds can be a factor. According to the website's research, 61 percent of donors are white, ten percent are hispanic, six percent are black, six percent are asian and four percent are multiple race.

For those that do get called to the registry, the donation itself is a simple process with little side effects. According to bethematch.org, donations can be given via surgery or by a non-invasive procedure called peripheral blood stem cell donation. Either way the the donor should return that day and at worst deal with a about a week of stiffness and discomfort.

Ferguson said those interested in helping but worried about the process of actually donating should remember the people they are helping and their importance.

"Over 54,000 new cases of leukemia are diagnosed a year and over 24,000 of them will die," Ferguson said. "That's a staggering number. Not everybody will be a match. The more people we get in these registries the more likely it will be that we find somebody who is a match."

Cooper, who was interviewed via phone from his hospital bed in Indiana University North Hospital after a five-mile run, said those who register would be benefitting people across the nation.

"Not only is it benefiting me, as someone who needs it within a couple months, but it benefits the entire cancer community, kids and adults that need it," Cooper said. "It's not asking a lot and it benefits a lot of people."

Cooper was a cross country and track athlete at Carmel High School in Carmel, Indiana before receiving his diagnosis. He now spends most his time in a hospital room, except for special occasions like the week of Easter.

Despite his illness, Cooper still strives to stay active, riding a stationary bike in his hospital room for approximately 12 miles-a-day. According to Ferguson, some days he is not able to ride the 12 miles because of the chemo, but the drive to stay active is a major part of Cooper's fight against his disease.

"(Staying active) means everything," Cooper said. "If I had to stay in bed all day I would go crazy. Being able to work out, lift weights, do core exercise and run outside, it's a mental release for me. It means so much."

Ferguson said Cooper has handled the fight with a spirit most people would not possess. He himself had a cancerous tumor on his kidney, but got it removed before it was a problem with his health. Ferguson said Cooper's youth and positive energy are the keys to helping him deal with this.

Cooper read Stuart Scott's book "Everyday I Fight" and drew a lot of strength from that. Influence is key to keeping Cooper's spirits up.

"The people around me (help a lot)," Cooper said. "I see how hap-

py they are and their good vibes rub off on me. I'm generally a positive person but the people around me are definitely helping."

An emotional Ferguson said staying strong for Cooper is almost the only thing a support group can do.

"Pray. Be there. Donate," Ferguson said. "Because otherwise you'd sit around crying about it. And he wouldn't want you to do that. His mom made the rule, and she probably violates it more than anyone else, that you can't have red eyes."

Cooper is set to be transferred to a hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, in early June and Ferguson said the family hopes he will receive his transplant at that time. However, that would hinge on him finding a donor.

"(Finding a match) means a lot," Cooper said. "I can't really put it into words because I need a bone marrow transplant to have a chance to live late into life. Putting it into words is hard to explain, it would mean everything."

Even though Cooper is bedridden, he still keeps up with his studies, devoting more than five hours a day to school work. He has stayed in touch with his friends and tried to keep up with what he loves about high school.

Doctors gave Cooper permission to leave the hospital in early May to attend two track meets for his school as well as his junior prom. Cooper is thankful for the help he, and everyone with cancer, receive from those willing to donate.

"Thank you to the University and everyone donating," Cooper said. "It really means alot to me and my family. And while it may not help me directly, it could help someone in LA or it could help someone in New York. You're helping everyone in the world with cancer, so thank you."

FIREFIGHTING

CONTINUED FROM A1

"To evaluate them, they must have all their proper equipment on. We aim to get them on in one minute or less. They must use the proper techniques with the water, how they manage the water and how they put it (the fire) out.

If they can't put the water out, I take it out with the controls."

Jones said she was proud of the students' success and their evaluations after the training had been completed.

"I'm very proud of them working together, and the teamwork. There's no 'I' in the fire service at all with these guys. If you're not working as a team, then somebody is going to get injured or, worst case scenario, somebody is going to die. So it's very important that they work together," Jones said.

Junior Nick Muller said the safe learning environment was the best part of the training for him.

"It's good to learn this now in a safe environment. Much better than if we fight a real fire when things go wrong pretty easy. It's good

practice and everyone's doing very well. I think a lot of us are ready for a real fire from this training session," Muller said.

Maryville Fire Chief Phillip Rickabaugh said that this training is good for both the students and the volunteer firefighters since they don't respond to many structural fires.

Rickabaugh also said the teamwork in the training was the most prevalent quality among the students and volunteers.

"It's been an awesome opportunity for the students and for our department to get in there and get some hands on experience, putting out an interior fire. Fortunately for us, we don't get a lot of structure fires, so this is close to as the real thing we are going to get with it being 99.99 percent safe," Rickabaugh said. "When we started out on this program, there were five of us volunteers on our own. You know they have a busy life to start with. They have families, kids and jobs, but they jumped right in and wanted to take that class. Of course the rest of the Northwest students joined in. Those guys all came together and worked as a team."

PLATES

CONTINUED FROM A1

"Maybe if they were green and not just white with the paw, I would purchase one."

Other students were excited that they were finally able to show their Northwest pride with their car. Senior Max Maldorf, an international student, says the new plates are a great way to bring alum, students and future students together.

"I'm excited that Northwest has come out with new ways to show our school spirit," Maldorf said. "This can be a great way to adver-

tise to new prospective students to join our university."

Northwest Senior Trevon Walker has seen many bearcats near his hometown of Kansas city.

"I feel like the university is big enough and bearcat pride is deep enough where students are noticed by alumni and other people outside the university. I know there have been times I've been driving Kansas City and I have seen a Northwest license plate," said Walker.

The plates can also be renewed for many years to come. However, the \$15 personalized fee will still be in effect for each renewal, but the donation is a one-time fee.

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Blotters for the week of April 14

Maryville Department of Public Safety

March 26

A summons has been issued to Kasay R. McChesney, 19, for a peace disturbance and supplying alcohol to a minor at the 300 block of East 7th Street.

A summons has been issued to Tristian E. Wray, 18, for a peace disturbance and supplying alcohol to a minor at the 300 block of East 7th Street.

A summons has been issued to Ty M. Cowan, 19, for permitting a peace disturbance and supplying alcohol to a minor at the 300 block of East 7th Street.

April 1

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny at the 1600 block South Main.

April 3

A summons has been issued to Michael A. Eppely, 24, for driving while intoxicated and failure to stop at a posted stop sign at the 1100 block of North Mulberry.

A summons has been issued to David L. Howell, 20, for driving while intoxicated, minor in possession and failure to maintain right half of roadway at the 700 block of West Edwards.

There is an ongoing investigation for burglary at the 800 block of North Walnut.

April 4

There is an ongoing investigation for harassment at the 200 block of East 3rd Street.

A summons has been issued to Jordan L. Burton, 23, for driving while suspended at the 400 block of North Buchanan.

April 5

A summons has been issued to Charles D. White, 43, for improper display of registration and failure to maintain financial responsibility at the 300 block of South Market.

April 7

A summons has been issued to Deron M.L. Fields, 19, for driving while intoxicated, minor in possession, driving while suspended, careless and inconsiderate driving, possession of a fake I.D. and leaving the scene of an accident at the 500 block of West 3rd Street.


There is an ongoing investigation for property damage at the 2000 block of South Main.

April 8

A summons has been issued to Alec M. Dunn, 21, for driving while intoxicated, careless and inconsiderate driving and failure to stop at a posted stop sign at the 1400 block of East 3rd Street.


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Level: Beginner



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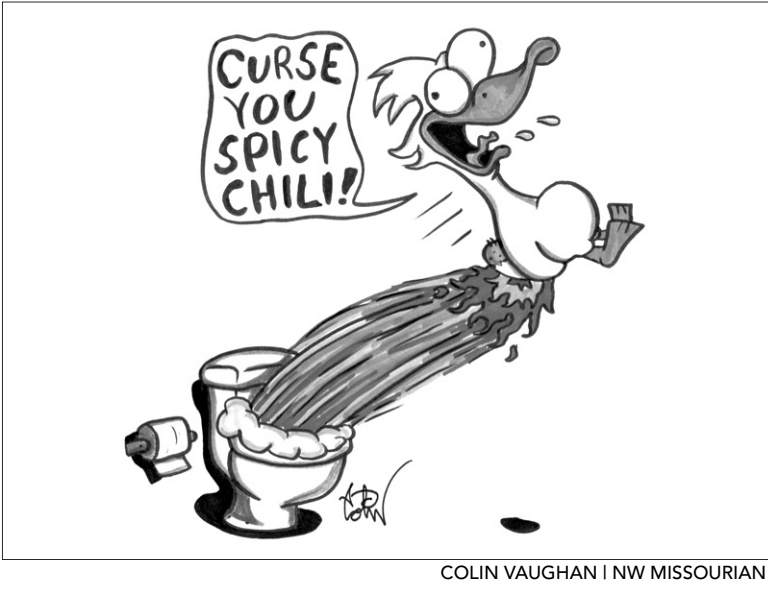


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CROSSWORD By Peter A Collins

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- Clues Across
- 1. Brave act
 - 5. Ejects saliva
 - 10. A vale
 - 14. Expression of surprise
 - 15. Feels concern
 - 16. Saddle horse
 - 17. Emerald Isle
 - 18. Silly
 - 19. Female child
 - 20. Cyprinids
 - 22. Comedienne Gasteyer
 - 23. National capital
 - 24. Court game
 - 27. Tooth caregiver
 - 30. Supervises flying
 - 31. Small amount
 - 32. Degree of loudness
 - 34. Wore down
 - 36. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
 - 37. Actor Pitt
 - 39. Red mineral
 - 40. Have already done
 - 41. Asian antelope
 - 42. Forms over a cut
 - 43. Performer ___ Lo Green
 - 44. Pressed against
 - 45. An alternative
 - 46. 5th note of a major scale
 - 47. Tell on
 - 48. Patti Hearst’s captors
 - 49. Breaks apart
 - 52. Russian country house
 - 55. Female grunts
 - 56. Type of sword
 - 60. Ottoman Empire title
 - 61. Emaciation
 - 63. He was Batman
 - 64. Nonmoving
 - 65. Group in China
 - 66. A thought
 - 67. Withered
 - 68. Worldly mosquitoes
 - 69. Tide

- Clues Down
- 1. Unreal
 - 2. River in Norway
 - 3. Long poem
 - 4. Cygnus star
 - 5. ___ fi (slang)
 - 6. Known for its canal
 - 7. A citizen of Iran

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64					65						66			
67					68						69			

- 8. Inhabited
- 9. Midway between south and southeast
- 10. Semitic fertility god
- 11. ___ Clapton, musician
- 12. Lawman
- 13. City 3000 B.C.
- 21. They hold valuables
- 23. Department of Defense
- 25. Begetter
- 26. Check
- 27. Early union leader
- 28. Lawmaker
- 29. About Sun
- 32. Negligible amounts
- 33. Roll
- 35. Just a little bit
- 36. Small, spotted cubes
- 37. Founder of Babism
- 38. Father
- 40. Blue Hen State
- 41. Satisfies
- 43. Police officer
- 44. Digital audiotape
- 46. Covers most of Earth
- 47. Inflorescence
- 49. Find this on hot days
- 50. Fanatical
- 51. Absorption unit
- 52. Sitcom “My Two ___”
- 53. Phil ___, former CIA
- 54. Partially burn
- 57. ___ farewell
- 58. Ancient Greek City
- 59. A way to derive
- 61. Women’s social organization
- 62. Female sibling

SOLUTIONS

5	4	6	2	7	8	3	9	1
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KEYBOARD WARRIORS

Freshman takes on professional gamers at first North American DreamHack gaming competition

BECCA BOREN
A&E Editor | @beccalynnborn

Football, basketball, baseball and volleyball are no longer the most popular sports in the nation. Esports are taking over the nation and captivating people of all ages.

Esports are any games facilitated by an electronic medium. This can include console gaming on platforms like Xbox and PlayStation or PC.

Some people, like freshman Andrew Hayworth, dedicate hours of their time training and preparing for Esport competitions. Luckily for Hayworth, it is all paying off. He is attending a video game competition called DreamHack May 6-7 in Austin, Texas.

Hayworth is a music education major and after classes and homework, he spends his free time gaming.

"I really started playing video games at four or five years old," Hayworth said. "Just about everyone in my family plays games, or at least my brother, dad and grandpa all play. Specifically, we play computer games."

Hayworth prefers to play games that require a lot of strategy.

"I play a lot of different kinds of games... I usually find a game I really like and then play it for months on end until I get tired of it," Hayworth said.

The game Hayworth has prepared to take to the Esport competition in Austin is "Starcraft II."

The original "Starcraft" came out in 1999 and, according to gaming website Adanai, was one of the first games that made Esports popular.

"Starcraft II: Legacy of the Void" is a real-time military strategy game. It was released in 2010 and has been a focus for Esporting events ever since.

The World Championship Series (WCS) is the blanket network running DreamHack.

Each year is broken up into three seasons to allow viewers to easily follow the tournaments. Each tournament can earn a gamer WCS points if he or she performs well. Once



ANDREW HAYWORTH

the gamer has enough points, he or she is able to move up a ladder.

Gamers with enough points are invited to play in the final WCS tournament and the winner receives \$150,000. Last year, the tournament lasted four weeks and consisted of 73 games, according to gaming website lolesports.com. Over the course of those four weeks, the tournament had 334 million people tuning in everyday.

The Austin tournament will be hosting competitions for "Starcraft II" as well as other games such as "Counter Strike: Global Offensive," "Hearthstone," "Heroes of the Storm," "Smash," "Streetfighter" and "Pay Day II."

Hayworth is competing in the open bracket portion of the tournament. Few were invited to compete, but others who were ranked high enough on the ladder were able to enter into an open bracket. Hayworth is in the Master's league, so he is roughly in the top 2 percent of players in North and South America.

"If I can, (I would like to) make it out of

the open bracket, but there will be a lot of really good people there," Hayworth said. "I am more just going for the experience, to meet people I have met online and played games against. Depending on how well I do at this tournament, I might take this summer to get as good as I can."

For tournaments, players spend hours every day training themselves to know each game inside and out.

"This semester, I go to classes and do all of my homework in between classes," Hayworth said. "Then I go home at 4 or 5 p.m. and I will play until I go to bed. I play on the ladder to keep my ladder rank up and watch replays from Koreans."

DreamHack will be held in North America for the first time ever in 2016. It normally takes place in various locations around Europe. At these tournaments, the primary gamers are Korean and everyone else is considered a foreigner.

However, at this tournament, Koreans will not be in attendance because of poor U.S. and Korean relationships.

A total of 96 people will attend the tournament and 88 of them will be in the open bracket.

Northwest does not offer an Esports program, but several other universities such as San Jose State, Harvard and Florida State have adopted the new wave of sports. These universities even give out scholarships for gamers.

"I think Esports on campuses is something that will inevitably happen," Hayworth said. "Whether they want it to or not, it's growing and there are already collegiate leagues popping up... It's a multimillion dollar enterprise."

Sophomore chemistry major Nick Baker believes having an Esports program on campus would bring the community together.

"I had a bunch of friends in high school because of video games. I even ended up rooming with one of them here," Baker said. "Common interests like that help you connect with people. It gives you something to do when you are hanging out."

Junior vocal music major Josh May is not

interested in Esports on campus for the competitive aspect, but for bringing together of gamers from different cultures and perspectives.

Baker has similar views. He does not know if he would participate on an Esport team, however, he is interested in watching others play and become a part of that community.

The most common place for gamers to share their experiences and interact with other gamers is Twitch, an online streaming source that broadcasts live video of gamers playing popular games and narrating their actions and lives.

According to the Twitch advertizing website, there are over 1.7 million unique broadcasters on the network with over 100 million viewers.

Senior Austin Diedrichs plays video games and streams his content on Twitch occasionally.

"I only had like, five viewers, most of which were my friends," Diedrichs said. "It almost seems like you're talking to yourself because there is just a camera in front of you while you play games, but it honestly doesn't feel that much different than talking to my friends online while playing games."

Diedrichs said he does not have a lot of experience streaming, but he cannot imagine doing it as a fulltime career like some gamers do.

"I couldn't imagine keeping up that much energy while I play," Diedrichs said. "I play recreationally, like a lot, but still just recreationally. Sometimes I play when I am in a bad mood and playing makes me happier. I feel like it would be hard to stay excited on camera all the time."

Hayworth has some advice for anyone looking to start competitive gaming.

"Be ready to be criticized for it all. When I tell people I plan on playing 'Starcraft' 10 hours a day this summer, people give me flack for it," Hayworth said. "It takes a lot of dedication and commitment, but if it is something you are passionate about, it is understandable and you should pursue it."



Northwest students gather around the table to play different video games while giving each other helpful hints and tips.

TAYLOR JOHNSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Elle Woods takes over Northwest's stage

SYDNEY OETTER
A&E Writer | @squidneyo

Harvard's beloved blonde Elle Woods took Northwest's stage by pink storm this past weekend, drawing in record crowds averaging over 500 people a night.

The story is based on the novel "Legally Blonde" by Amanda Brown and the following 2001 film. It tells the story of Elle Woods, a sorority girl who enrolls at Harvard Law School to win back her ex-boyfriend Warner.

Senior Lauren Sveum was cast as the lead role of Elle. She loved the role and really connected with the character.

"Elle was a really fun challenge. She is a character that starts as a 'one trick pony.' She is a popular, bubbly blonde with a handsome, successful boyfriend and that is all that there is to her... Hopefully throughout the show, the audience saw Elle evolve," Sveum said. "It was fun to go with her through some really challenging and heartbreaking experiences, but ultimately see her come out as a woman who really stood for something, without the help of her dumpy ex-boyfriend."

She later discovers how her knowledge of the law can help others. The music and lyrics for the show were written by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin.

Junior Allison Parks was a member of the cast for Legally Blonde. She gave all the details about the hard work that went into this spectacular show, including how long the preparation took.

"It was an eight week process of

rehearsals that were typically three hours long, some nights even longer," Parks said. "Everyone involved in the show was so happy with the outcome, and the audiences every night loved it as well. We have never had this large of an audience, which made it even more exciting."

Senior Austin Dierichs played Emmett who becomes Elles love interest. He describes what it was like to prepare for one of the main leads.

"Being Emmett was a ton of fun but it was also a lot of work. The hardest part of playing Emmett is the amount of things I had to learn. There was so much music and so many lines to learn that I was actually scared I wouldn't be able to learn it all in time," Dierichs said. "Fortunately the rest of the cast was amazing and many of them helped me practice and get better outside of rehearsal. The best part of playing Emmett was all the relationships that I built in the process. Every single person in the cast was a joy to work with and I'm so glad I could make such wonderful memories with all of them."

Parks and Dierichs claims the show could not have happened without everyone coming together as a team.

"I am personally so proud of every single person involved in this production," Parks said. "It was a challenging show and I am grateful that I got the opportunity to share the stage with such talented people."

The past two months of hard work by the cast and crew paid off. Junior Kellie Higley was captivated by the Elle and the cast when she saw the play



TODD WEDDLE | NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
Like every good tragedy, Elle Woods had her Greek chorus following at her heels ready to give advice when needed.

"I was excited when I found out 'Legally Blonde' was being performed by our theater department because it is one of my favorite movies and musicals," Higley said.

Higley was not left disappointed. "I loved the show," Higley said.

"I was so impressed. Our theater and music departments are incredibly talented. I was laughing and enjoying myself the entire show."

She wasn't the only one that en-

joyed the show. Audience members left smiling and humming the tunes of Legally Blonde in their heads

Dierich gives some advice to anyone that wants to get involved in the theater department.

"Just go for it, Dierich said. "Even if you've never had any acting experience. Also, all of the theater students and professors are extremely friendly and would be happy to help you out if you wanted to know more

about the theater department.

Getting involved in the theatre department was one of the highlights of Sveum's Northwest career.

"This was not only my last, but my first musical here at Northwest... I was lucky enough to be cast alongside my best friends," Sveum said. "It was such a challenging, fulfilling experience and I am really thankful for this show."

Sigma Kappa Inherits the Earth with Wesley Center

DAVID MOGLER
A&E Reporter | @DavidMogler

Deadlines, rent and exam cram sessions make it difficult for many students to help enrich their neighborhoods, but the sisters of Sigma Kappa hope to push ahead by demonstrating their love for the Maryville community.

Sigma Kappa members volunteered for the Wesley Center last Sunday as part of their philanthropy

event, Inherit the Earth. From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., members of Sigma Kappa helped Wesley Center Director Travis Dimmitt maintain the center's grounds. Members of the group assisted in picking up sticks, landscaping, washing windows and shoveling piles of leaves.

The Wesley Center's placement near the entrance of Northwest campus makes it a strategic location. Many visitors coming to Northwest's Mabel Cook building first

pass by the Wesley Center located at 459 Fourth Street, which makes keeping the grounds looking beautiful an absolute necessity to attract potential students. Dimmitt is Wesley's only full time staff member and faces a monumental task in maintaining Wesley's image on his own. Any help offered is appreciated.

"...We basically rely on volunteer help like Sigma Kappa and other organizations. I'm very grateful for the service they've provided, not

just to me or the center itself, but to all the people that use the facility," Dimmitt said. "They make it look really nice and their hard work is going to be appreciated by tons of people as they come through."

Many students use the Wesley Center for a variety of activities. Sigma Kappa, in particular, holds many of its ceremonies and mandatory volunteer services at the building. President of Philanthropic Service Emma Kleopfer helps organize Inherit the Earth.

"We have five philanthropies and one of them is Inherit the Earth. We have a section of the highway that we've adopted through the years that we take time once a month to clean up," Kleopfer said. "Here (the Wesley Center) we do a lot of our mandatory events... We figured it'd be a good idea to give back and help them clean up outside."

Sigma Kappa chooses to get involved in the community out of its appreciation for the resources that Northwest and Maryville provide to facilitate positive experiences for the group.

Sophomore Executive Vice President of Sigma Kappa Abbie Cook attests getting into Maryville and aiding the community really allows volunteers to achieve a broader focus. Cook continued to say students can realize life is not all about oneself.

"It really helps you feel like you're a part of something, and even something as little as picking up trash on a street helps you real-

ize that you can make a difference in doing something bigger than yourself," Cook said.

Lack of relevancy and motivation are the biggest challenges in getting people to take an active role in their neighborhoods, according to Travis Dimmitt. Many people may feel distant or estranged from the places in which they live in while others may feel complacent due to not feeling cared for themselves. Behavioral Sciences Instructor at Northwest and spouse of Director Travis Dimmitt Elizabeth Dimmitt claims people need to know their actions make a difference in Maryville.

"I believe if we can get them to want to do a service project, they feel that commitment and that reinforcement of 'Gosh, this altruistic act was of benefit. It didn't just feel good to the community but it warmed my heart,'" Elizabeth Dimmitt said. "When we can show people that they make a difference, then they may want to be more engaged at that point."

The service provided by Sigma Kappa may stand as one small act of kindness, but one that Elizabeth Dimmitt and scores of Northwest visitors can appreciate.

"I think it's pretty amazing that they're reaching out and trying to make a difference in our community and our earth in ensuring not only beautification, but also an overall community feel," Elizabeth Dimmitt said.

What's next on the — list for you? —

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THE STROLLER:
Dear Rachelle, your woman
wants some understanding

First, I want to say thank you for reading our content. A lot of hard work and effort goes into a fully student-run newspaper and too often it goes unnoticed.

But what I really want to talk about from your letter is your use of power and influence.

I am well-educated on the issues women face on campus as well as all over the world. I continue to write educational editorials covering these subjects, but to tell you which columns would only reveal my identity.

The matter at hand is how we choose to use said power and influence.

There are 1,000 places to go to find active and engaging discussions about women’s rights, the gender pay gap and overall inequality. It

is thrown in our faces everyday by many media outlets.

When living in a world so negative and surrounded by so much hate, my goal is to throw some humor into the mix. I try to focus on things making people happy rather than things making people take to the streets.

Not saying those opinions and discussions are not important. They are incredibly so. But I cannot live my life so focused on all of the terrible things happening. I have to be able to look up from the turmoil and laugh a little. I need to be able to look on the bright side and talk about things more light hearted.

Like relationships.

I am a feminist through and through. I will fight for my rights as

much as I encourage other women to fight for theirs.

But that is not my vision for “the Stroller,” which, to me, is a joke mixed in amongst rape allegations and student deaths on campus.

The stroller is a reminder to smile everyday and continue to work on how I interact with other people and how I view love.

Providing laughter and happiness to readers of my content is how I choose to use my power and influence. Maybe everyone should try to share a little more joy as well.

And as always, stay thirsty.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

Finals tips

Advice for surviving the deadliest week of the year.



1. **Make a plan.**

Spread out the time you want to spend studying and make sure you are allotting different times for different subjects. As much as we would all love to believe it, cramming will not get you the grade you need.

2. **Use your resources.**

The TDC is a great way to work with tutors and other students taking the same classes you are. It is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

3. **Find your study zone.**

Pick your place to study. Whether it is on the third floor of the library or in your dorm room with a Harry Potter marathon playing, find a place where you are your most productive.

4. **Connect to your studies.**

Connect your studies to your life. The more you tie your schoolwork to what you are doing with your career, the more likely you are to remember it. Make the information relevant to you.

5. **Take care of yourself.**

Make sure to eat right, exercise and take some time for yourself. If you’re overwhelmed with projects and the work you have to do, you will have a mental breakdown and not be able to do anything at all.

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ICYMI

MUSIC

Country music singer Merle Haggard died April 6 at 79 years old of pneumonia. (CNN)

Music producer David Gest was found dead in his hotel room at the Four Seasons April 12. The cause of death is not yet known. Gest was 62 years old. (US Weekly)

MOVIES

“The Jungle Book” is set to open in theaters tomorrow. It opened overseas this past weekend and made over \$30 million. (IMBD)

“Pitch Perfect 2” won best on-screen duo at the MTV Movie Awards.

CELEBRITIES

Kate Middleton and Prince William visited India April 12 and met with one of the poorest populations; the trafficked children. The couple is evaluating ways they can help prevent human trafficking. (US Weekly)

Amy Poehler won best virtual performance for her role in Disney’s “Inside Out.”

MISCELLANEOUS

SAC is hosting an End of the Year Bash this Friday, April 15, at the Pavilion @ 4 p.m. The event will feature free food and games.

The spring semester ends in 15 days.

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GREENSLADE
CONTINUED FROM A14

After missing out on the chance to play for Iowa, former Northwest pitcher Kole Klocko introduced Greenslade to the Bearcats. Despite the uncertainty and challenges Greenslade faced, Northwest never wavered and wanted to have him as part of the team.

“During the process, we stuck with him and stayed in close contact with him throughout the summer,” Creason said. “He seemed to be ahead of schedule the whole time and seemed to be doing pretty well. He was young, so that was a pretty big piece. He had just finished his freshman year, so if things had happened where he had to sit a year, we were okay with that because of the athlete and player he was.”

Greenslade ultimately chose Northwest because it was close to home and the school’s location ac-

commodated his ongoing rehab.

During his first year at Northwest, Greenslade was able to make an immediate impact despite still going through the rehab process. Greenslade accumulated a modest .258 batting average to a long with 21 RBI’s. Although Greenslade was happy to be playing baseball again, he’ll admit his first year at Northwest was challenging.

“Last year was tough,” Greenslade said. “I couldn’t do any baseball stuff all summer, so I was coming into the fall with not being able to do anything. I was playing 25 pounds under my weight, since I lost 40 pounds when I was in the hospital. It was tough to adjust to the pitching and to the overall speed of the game.”

It has been a full year since Greenslade completed his last rehab session and this year he has been able to focus solely on baseball. Through 34 games this season, Greenslade’s batting average has elevated to .295 which is fifth best on the team.



HANNAH WOODSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior outfielder Kolby Greenslade proves an injury will not stop him from playing the game he loves the most.

SOFTBALL
CONTINUED FROM A14

“Every year we want to go to regionals,” Anderson said. “At that point, it’s just who is hot, who gets the hits when they need to and how the pitchers are throwing.”

Last year’s team may have made significant strides during the latter half of the season, but it ultimately fell short of achieving its postseason goals.

“Last year during the second

half when we could finally play, we showed what we can do,” Anderson said. “We had a chance for regionals last year but fell short due to voting. Actually being able to go out and play in games this year really helped us in the long run.”

Anderson never said the road will be easy, but when the players’ backs are against the wall, it is their trust in each other that allows the Bearcats to maintain their position close to the top of the conference rankings for the majority of the sea-

son. Senior Madison Jones agrees.

“If somebody doesn’t get a hit, then we know the next person can,” Jones said. “We have faith in our pitcher to the point that we’re not scared when they’re on the mound as opposed to another.”

That trust has manifested into an era of 2.24 which is good enough for second in the conference.

The Bearcats also have a batting average of 31 percent and a fielding percentage of 96 percent, good enough for third and first place in the

conference.

Considering the Bearcats hold the No. 2 spot in conference rankings, confidence is at an all-time high.

The only team ahead of the Bearcats is Missouri Western, which sits at 19-3 in conference play.

Both teams met in a doubleheader March 29 that ended with each taking one game apiece.

“Coming into the season, we wanted to prove to everyone that we were higher than a fifth seed,” Jones said. “We’re excelling in ways we

didn’t think we were but we’re also excelling in ways we expected to, such as timely hits and our pitching.”

Not only has Northwest met its preseason expectations, but if its record is any indication, this year’s team also plans on riding its momentum deep into the conference tournament April 28.

Northwest continues regular season play when it takes on Missouri Western April 14 in a matchup between one and two seeds in the conference.

HISTORIC
CONTINUED FROM A14

If one thing is clear, being content with regular season success is not on the agenda for anyone on the team. In between the clanking of aluminum bats meeting the cowhide of the softballs during any given Bearcat practice, you can hear head coach Ryan Anderson pushing his girls to take that extra step.

“Every year we want to go to regionals,” Anderson said. “It’s a bigger stepping stone from conference... At the start of the year, we talked about getting to regionals and then playing it from there.”

After being tested by conference leader Missouri Western March 29,

the Bearcats rattled off eight consecutive wins including beating Pittsburg State twice in a doubleheader. Beating Pittsburg State, ranked third in the MIAA, and Missouri Western, ranked first, shows how talented this year’s team is.

The interesting thing is there are only three seniors on the team. That means there is still a significant amount of growth and development left for a majority of the players.

A spot in the conference tournament has already been clinched, so another month has been added onto the season.

With extra time and seniors who lead by example, this year’s postseason appears to be one for the history books.

TRACK
CONTINUED FROM A14

The women finished in the top three in seven different events. Sophomore Nicole Hopkins won second place in the javelin, sophomore Emma Taylor finished her 400 meter with a personal best of 1:03.79 for third place and sophomore Mikayla Engeman finished third with a personal best of 18:42.74 in the 5000 meter.

The top performance of the day came from freshman Audrey Wichmann who won the high jump after clearing the 5-7.25 bar.

“We are very proud of Audrey,” Lorek said. “Sometimes freshmen hit and miss, but she has been real-

ly good for us all season.”

The men finished in the top three in seven events as well.

The stellar performances on the men’s side included the 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams finishing third, sophomore Kevin Schultz finishing third in the high jump behind junior teammate Bryce Sheard and junior Wick Cunningham finishing second in the 3000 meter steeplechase in a time of 9:35.32.

The team appears to be hitting its stride at the right time in the season.

With several personal records set at the MIAA vs. NSIC Showdown, the team continues to develop and improve its times with each meet that follows.

These improvements are exact-

ly what Lorek wanted to see before the big home meet last weekend.

With confidence high and momentum increasing, the team will look to capitalize on this weekend’s opportunities.

Twenty-three Bearcats will compete in California. The rest of the team will compete at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri this weekend. These athletes will compete in the WJC-Darrel Gourley Open all day Saturday.

As for the athletes in California, their meet starts Thursday with Bearcat seniors Chloe Wichmann and Derrick Schluter competing in the decathlon. The events will continue through Friday and conclude Saturday.



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Junior quarterback Kyle Zimmerman escapes the pocket on his way to a 16-yard touchdown run, making this the only offensive touchdown of the game, Sunday, April 10.

BRIA CREEDEN | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest defense shines in spring game

ISAIAH SWANN

Assistant Sports Editor | @iswanny035

In the Bearcats previous national championship run, the Northwest defense had statistically one of the greatest performances in NCAA history.



In the annual Green and White Spring Football game, the defense stood tall once again as Green defeated White 13-0.

Freshman defensive end Spencer Phillips' performance caught the eye of head coach Adam Dorrel.

"I thought he took advantage of every rep he had," Dorrel said. "He's really taken off. He's an awesome kid and I assure you he's a name you're going to remember for years to come."

Phillips graduated from Fremont-Mill High School but is also

one of two players from Tabor, Iowa. Clayton Wilson went to high school with Phillips.

The young freshman is very teachable and understands the importance of the position he's in.

"The spring was a great experience," Phillips said. "With playing here comes a big responsibility. Everyone is here for a reason and it's just nice to see the work we put in pay off."

In the first half both teams were held scoreless. One of the two scores of the game came from the defensive side of the ball.

A pick six by freshman linebacker Jamaal Brazil also boosted the defensive resume for the Bearcats spring contest.

"Being here at Northwest there's a lot of good players here," senior Kyle Zimmerman said. "Trusting them and what they can do will help me with

what I'm doing in the pocket."

Sophomore Jonathan Baker threw the interception but the battle between him and Zimmerman has been a tough one. He finished the game 4-8 for 25 yards.

"I was super pleased with both of them this spring," Dorrel said. "They're tough and they both run well. They aren't afraid to get hit and have a really high football IQ."

With both quarterbacks looking good in the early, it will be a tough decision come fall for Dorrel.

Especially with both having the desire to learn from each other's faults both on and off the field.

"Kyle and I have a really awesome relationship," Baker said. "We're up in the film room every day together critiquing ourselves."

Baker mentioned that they text each other a lot to meet up and study as much game film as they

can absorb.

"Zimmie (Zimmerman) is a great leader," Baker said. "I couldn't have asked for a better player to compete with."

The first half was a defensive battle as neither offense could find its rhythm.

"We got off to a slow start there at the beginning," Zimmerman said. "The defense was out there flying around, making plays."

Near the end of the first half the Green team, led by Zimmerman, was able to string together a few plays with the help of sophomore running back Emmanuel Jones.

"It was a collective unit offensively," Zimmerman said. "The line did a phenomenal job today. They gave me a lot of time, allowing me to go through my reads. Our execution was great."

That momentum set up the only

offensive score of the day. After completing passes on back to back attempts by Zimmerman, Green was in the red zone at the 16-yard line.

One of his targets he found was Wilson. Wilson finished the game with a team-high four catches for 54 yards.

The following play Zimmerman found some space along the left sideline and scrambled in for the rushing touchdown. He finished 8-12 for 91 yards along with four rushes for 34 yards and a touchdown.

No injuries and only two turnovers is a good sign at the end of a spring game.

"I've been pleased with them for the most part," Dorrel said. "Our focus has been pretty good. You can say whatever you want but it's hard to stay hungry after winning a national championship."

ATHLETES of the WEEK



BEARCATS

SPOOFHOUNDS



Romain Boissinot



The junior was named the MIAA men's tennis Athlete of the Week for the second time this season. During the week, he defeated the No. 47 and No. 24 ranked players in the nation.

Sarah Baldwin



The senior pitcher was named the MIAA/Astroturf pitcher of the week for the second time this season. She extended her scoreless inning streak to 22 with a pair of complete game shutouts over the weekend.

Alex Bean



The junior recorded a win Tuesday when he threw five strikeouts. He also gave up two runs in five innings of play.

Leah Jasinski



The senior centerback is a part of the Maryville defense, which has allowed only one goal in the last four games.

Freshman guided by family first mentality

JACOB SUNDERMAN
Missourian Sports Reporter | @TheMissourian

More than 5,000 miles separate freshman Kaja Emersic from her family, but they still motivate her every time she steps onto the court. “(Tennis) is something I can enjoy,” Emersic said. “It is something that makes my family proud of me when I do well. I like to do well and see my family happy.”

From a young age, Emersic fell in love with the game. Originally from Ljubljana, Slovenia, Emersic first picked up a racket at the age of seven and has enjoyed it ever since.

“My parents played tennis and I wanted to try it out and I liked it,” Emersic said. “I never stopped playing after that.”

The Slovenian native went to SS Domzale for high school and did what most international players do to get recognized: post recruiting videos online. This was a great tactic because she was able to showcase her talent and catch the eye of graduate assistant Lluís Altimires.

“(Kaja) didn’t come from a recruiting agency,” Altimires said. “She posted some recruiting videos on YouTube. I was looking for recruits and I saw her video. I really liked it, so I contacted her and she seemed really interested and it worked out great.”

Emersic knew it was a match right away at Northwest. But she also knew it was going to be tough leaving home and coming to America.

“It was a big step for me because I had never been away from my family for more

than three weeks before that,” Emersic said. “I was scared and excited. The last few days (before leaving), I couldn’t sleep.”

Luckily for her, Altimires went through the same thing when he came from Spain to America for college. He was able to help get her adjust and acclimate to not only America, but Northwest and Maryville.

“Being from a different country is tough,” Altimires said. “I was in the same position as her six years ago when I first came to the states. I just made sure she was comfortable and adapted. She has a great team here supporting her, so it is really good. She gets along with everyone really well.”

After starting the season off sluggish and losing three out of her first four single matches, Emersic turned it around and now sits at a record of 11-5.

“In the fall, it was tough because she was still adapting to being here in the states,” Altimires said. “We worked a lot on the mental aspect of her game and she has worked a lot on that by herself, too. She has improved since first getting here.”

Emersic feels good with what she has achieved so far, but she also knows she can get better. She sets goals for herself to continue to improve her game mentally and become more consistent.

“I am trying to improve mentally,” Emersic said. “Sometimes I get distracted, but I am trying to get better. Since I have started, I think I have improved the mental aspect of my game a lot.”



Freshman Kaja Emersic prepares a forehand shot during practice April 11.

Coming into the season, Emersic was slotted at the No. 2 spot, a big spot for a freshman. But Altimires knew the kind of player he was recruiting and the talent she was going to bring to the table.

“It is huge,” Altimires said. “When I was recruiting her, I figured she was going to be in the top 3 in the line. She has a lot of talent and a lot of potential. I am not surprised she is playing there.”

Emersic knows she is important at No. 2, but she also is a team-first player. She knows that spots 1-6 are all important along with all three doubles teams.

“Each position on the team is equally important,” Emersic said. “If I lose or win a match at 2, or our No. 6 loses or wins, it is the same. We need all the points as a team.”

In doubles play this year, Emersic has

shown her versatility to play with multiple people. She played at the No. 1 spot with Lorena Rivas Jarolim, going 2-5, and the No. 3 spot with Andrea Gallardo, going 7-5. Emersic has also learned how to help build up her teammates playing doubles.

“We try to keep each other up,” Emersic said. “If you know someone in their personal life, then you know when they are down and how to get them up. We all have gotten to know each other very well.”

As Emersic continues her already stellar tennis career at Northwest, one thing that will be certain is family is her motivation. Whether it is her bond with the team or her family back home in Slovenia, Emersic has the motivation to do great things as a Bearcat.

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Veteran Spoofhound mentors youthful tennis team through heart of the season

JOSEPH ANDREWS
Chief Sports Reporter | @Joe_Andrews15

Maryville High School senior Joe Suchan has proved to be a multi-dimensional student athlete throughout his four years as a Spoofhound.



Suchan is a member of band, soccer and tennis, holding the No.1 varsity spot for Maryville's tennis team.

“He absolutely loves tennis,” head coach Nicole McGinness said. “He is an athlete, and he always wants to try as much as he can.”

Suchan's tennis career began as a freshman, following influence from Maryville graduate Michael Farlough.

“He told me tennis was fun and encouraged me to try it out,” Suchan said. “I had no sports going on in the spring, so I figured why not give it a try. I started playing and really enjoyed it. I kind of stuck with it and picked it up and started working to get to the point where I am now.”

Suchan played with four fellow freshmen during his first season. This is when he knew he had a chance of developing himself as a team leader.

“It was always in the back of my mind freshman year,” Suchan said. “There were only four freshmen my freshman year, so I figured if we kept playing, I would be set on varsity with the most experience, but I never expected the No. 1 until last year when I was the No. 2.”

A large amount of Suchan's experience can be attributed to upperclassman which he has looked up to throughout his time as a Spoofhound.

“They had quite a little bit of skill,” Suchan said. “It was a pleasure learning from them because I was kind of the awkward person and they took my under their wing. They gave me the experience.”

McGinness says Suchan has taken up the same role towards his teammates as an upperclassman.

“He is a great competitor and



Senior Joe Suchan eyes the ball during practice April 11.

a great leader,” McGinness said. “That is always nice to have so the kids can see somebody so dedicated. There are a lot of sophomores that he has taken under his wing and helped them get that much better.”

Suchan also played soccer in the fall throughout his four years as a Spoofhound. Certain minor aspects of soccer helped him further develop himself as a tennis athlete.

“The footwork and the speed help a lot,” Suchan said. “Tennis is a lot about getting in the right position to hit the ball. Soccer is footwork with the ball to get around people. The footwork in tennis easily transfers to soccer and the other way around. The speed comes with getting yourself around the court faster.”

The two teams' mood during games and practices also corresponds to a certain extent.

“There is a little bit of energy in the atmosphere at practice,” Suchan said. “In both, we are very close. With soccer, practices are more intense where we have to run eighty minutes at a time. In tennis, we have to run for maybe one or two. Soccer is more conditioning, but fun-wise, it is always the same.”

On top of soccer and tennis, Suchan was also a member of the Spoofhound band and drumline. Suchan says each program works together to develop a schedule of when his presence is absolutely needed.

“It is difficult,” Suchan said. “Practices and rehearsals never really overlap, but every couple of Saturdays we might have a competition where there is a game or match. We typically try to flip flop days and see who needs me more.”

Suchan plans to attend Northwest next fall to study computer science. Until then, his main focus is helping the team grow in strength over the last half of the season.

“Hopefully we do better than we did last year,” Suchan said. “If the wins don't come out, I just want the underclassmen to gain experience and get better.”

Suchan hopes his mentality can help increase the experience of his team throughout his final month as a Spoofhound.

“It is a different story every day,” Suchan said. “It seems like I get to come to practice, not like I have to come to practice. It is something I enjoy doing with these guys. I'm going to miss them, that's for sure.”

SPONSORED BY NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	MEN'S TENNIS	WOMEN'S TENNIS
	MIAA Standings	MIAA Standings	MIAA Standings	MIAA STANDINGS
	Overall MIAA	Overall MIAA	Overall MIAA	Overall MIAA
	Central Missouri.....22-9 20-4	X-Missouri Western.....34-10 19-3	X-*NORTHWEST.....15-1 3-0	X-Northeastern St.....14-2 8-0
	Emporia State.....26-9 18-6	X-*NORTHWEST.....33-9 17-5	Southwest Baptist9-5 2-0	Southwest Baptist.....14-3 5-1
	Missouri Western.....24-11 16-8	X-Pittsburg St.....33-14 17-5	Washburn.....12-4 2-1	Nebraska Kearney.....13-4 5-2
	Washburn.....21-13 16-8	Central Oklahoma.....30-14 13-5	Nebraska Kearney.....13-2 1-2	*NORTHWEST.....8-9 4-2
	Missouri Southern.....24-11 14-10	Northeastern St.....26-19 11-9	Emporia St.....13-5 1-3	Lindenwood.....7-7 3-3
	Northeastern St.....19-15 13-11	Central Missouri.....22-22 11-11	Lindenwood.....5-10 0-3	Washburn.....8-8 3-3
	*NORTHWEST.....18-16 13-11	Fort Hays St.....17-28 11-13		Missouri Western7-4 3-4
	Central Oklahoma.....20-15 12-12	Missouri Southern.....22-29 9-13		Central Oklahoma.....14-8 3-4
	Southwest Baptist.....17-17 12-12	Southwest Baptist.....18-30 9-13		Emporia St.....10-10 2-5
	Fort Hays St.....17-18 11-13	Emporia St.....19-26 7-11		Fort Hays St.....7-10 1-6
	Nebraska Kearney13-20 10-14	Nebraska Kearney.....18-24 9-15		Lincoln.....0-7 0-8
	Lindenwood.....15-18 9-15	Washburn.....17-21 7-13		
	Pittsburg St.....9-24 4-20	Lindenwood11-33 6-16		
	Lincoln.....1-33 0-24	Lincoln.....5-42 4-18		
	April 15-17 Southwest Baptist at NORTHWEST	April 14 NORTHWEST at Missouri Western (DH)	April 16 NORTHWEST at Southwest Baptist	April 15 NORTHWEST at Lincoln
	April 19 NORTHWEST at Missouri Western	April 22 NORTHWEST at Emporia St (DH)	April 17 NORTHWEST at Washington University	
		April 23 NORTHWEST at Washburn (DH)	April 20 NORTHWEST at Graceland	
		X-Clinched Tournament Berth	X-Clinched Tournament Berth	X-Clinched Tournament Berth



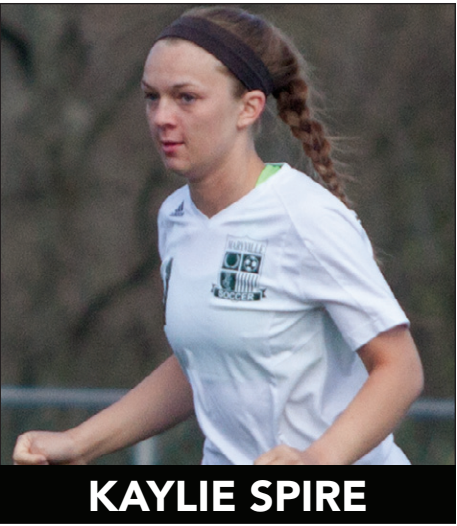
LEAH JASINSKI



JACQUELYN WARE



ANNIKA JOHNSON



KAYLIE SPIRE

These four Spoofhounds have been the starting back line to the Maryville soccer team's defense throughout the 2015-2016 season.

The Big Four

Long lasting relationships stand the test of time for Spoofhound defense

ISAIAH SWANN
Assistant Sports Editor | @iswanny035

In every defensive scheme there needs to be a wall built solid from the bottom up, and over the past two years, the Spoofhounds have found their big four.

Seniors Jacquelyn Ware and Leah Jasinski and juniors Annika Johnson and Kaylee Spire have been the catalyst behind the Spoofhounds' soccer success.

Ware, Jasinski and Spire have been in the same position since last season and Johnson has fit right into the rotation without missing a beat. The chemistry they have formed has reflected both on and off the field.

"You're seeing the confidence of these girls," coach Dale Reuter said. "They can pass to anyone on the field and that's what we want."

Their confidence is important, but the true identity of this group of girls is the connection each one of them shares with one another.

"Our bond has always been strong," Ware said. "It has only grown with experience. We aren't perfect, but we give our best efforts to prevent the other teams from scoring."

The degree of difficulty becomes much more demanding when there are four different girls playing in one centralized area. Each play-



er must be locked in mentally to understand which athlete is where on the field.

"We all communicate well with each other," Ware said. "We are able to listen and tune in to what each other is saying to help get the ball up to our offensive players."

Each back does, however, have her own individualized role so that each position can be done productively. Johnson and Spire have the left and right back positions while Jasinski and Ware fill out the middle.

"We know each other's strengths and weaknesses," Ware said. "We are familiar with one another and always have each other's back."

Playing defense isn't as easy as this group makes it out to be. The girls are constantly scratching and clawing for every ball they can get their hands on. Even the slightest miscue or mismanagement of the ball can cost a team the entire game which is why it is important that everyone be tuned in 100 percent of the time.

"You have to be aggressive in every position, but defense, you have no room to be weak or nice," Spire said. "As a defender, you have to fight for the ball harder than anyone, otherwise they have a chance to score."

Statistically, the defense has been unstoppable, allowing less than

20 goals in the entire 2014-2015 season. This year, the team is well on pace to break that stretch. Through the Spoofhounds' first 10 games, the defense has only conceded a stunning four goals.

One of those goals came from Springfield Catholic, a team ranked highly in the state. Two of the other goals were against Grain Valley, a Class 4 powerhouse.

The defense has also produced six clean shots, meaning it has not allowed goals in any of those six games.

"It's a good feeling you get when no one scores on you," Ware said. "Through the stress, hard work and motivation, to see our efforts have a good outcome is a wonderful feeling. I enjoy playing with the team I'm on and appreciate everyone's efforts to get the outcome we desire."

In a group this size, someone is established as the go-to leader. With this quad, two seniors Ware and Jasinski coexist as one.

"They are definitely the two leaders," Spire said. "They are both different leaders in different ways and that makes it work great."

Even with the two upperclassmen leading, the relationship between Spire and Johnson has become that much stronger.

"She became my best friend on and off the field," Spire said.

The age difference between Ware and Jasinski and Spire and Johnson gives the younger duo an opportunity to learn from the best.

"I wouldn't trade this opportunity for the world," Spire said. "Our defense will definitely be different next year without Jacquelyn and Leah, but they have shown Annika and I how to keep the defense together."

Though after it is all said and done, these past two years will never be forgotten.

"It's been a learning experience and we've made some of the best memories together," Johnson said.

Coaches and players agree that the defense has been a focal point for Spoofhound soccer and the biggest reason for the team's success. The defensive players are the only four that have constantly played together for the past two seasons.

The defense doesn't have substitutes like the midfielders and forwards do, and that makes them stronger. They know each player's style of play every minute of the game.

"We play amazing together," Spire said. "We know exactly how to play together and back each other up."

This flawless chemistry goes back to when these girls played on the Maryville Twisters, a summer league team for kids ages 11-14.

"We four have had a pretty

close bond since the beginning, but I'd say that it has grown stronger," Jasinski said. "We trust each other completely and know that we have each others' backs."

This is where the girls' relationships with one another started and began to develop into something that most teams only dream of having.

"I consider everyone on the soccer team my sister, but it's a way different relationship with the defense than just a family," Spire said. "It's way stronger than that."

This camaraderie is exactly what Reuter wants from his teams year after year.

"If you care about who you're playing with, you care about them as a person," Reuter said. "We want everyone to feel like a family and that's our biggest goal."

All the girls are eternally grateful for this experience and Ware couldn't have summed up all the games they've been through any better.

"If I were to sum up the past two years with these girls, I would say thank you," Ware said. "The effort these girls put in during games is outstanding, and the trust we have with each other is remarkable. I have created many friendships that will last past high school that I am grateful for. I wouldn't of want to play defensive line with any other girls than Leah, Kaylie and Annika."



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Track team sets sights on sunny California

TOBY TODD
Missourian Sports Reporter | @TheMissourian

Following a successful home meet over the weekend, the Bearcat track and field team will venture west to compete in the Azusa Pacific meet as well as the Long Beach Relays.



This is the second year in a row the team has received the opportunity to compete in California.

Last year at this event, the team posted five provisional marks and junior Haley Manning broke her own school record in the 800 meter dash with a time of 2:12.03. This event is one of the largest and most exciting events of the season.

Last year, there were more than 3,000 entries across 42 events and over 100 institutions represented.

“They started scheduling meets on the west coast because we are always looking for the best competition,” coach Scott Lorek said. “With the large number of entries and institutions represented, it will give the athletes even more competition.”

Only a few team members will get the opportunity to make the trek to the coast and compete.

“The athletes aspire to get to this event,” Lorek said. “These individuals are at the performance level to come out here and compete.”

The team will get out and enjoy the California weather, not just by hanging out, but on the track as well.

“Weather will make a difference,” Lorek said. “This past weekend we had wonderful temperatures but 30 mph winds. The athletes will be able to focus simply on competing without worrying about the elements or weather during the meet.”

The Bearcats are coming off of a strong outing in the MIAA vs. NSIC Showdown this past weekend.

“That was a great meet for us,” Lorek said. “It’s a great experience for the athletes and the program and it will get us ready for the conference meet. The women finished fifth in the competition while the men finished third.”



BRIA CREEDEN | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior Wick Cunningham finished second in the 3000 meter steeplechase in the MIAA v. NSIC Showdown April 9.

SEE **TRACK** | **A10**



DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

Senior infielder Madison Jones drills the ball into right field for a base hit Saturday April 9 against Missouri Southern.

Bearcats punch early ticket to post-season

TREY RANDLE
Chief Sports Reporter | @treyrocks36

As the regular season winds down, all signs point toward a promising postseason stretch for the Northwest softball team.



Just over two months into the season, the 33-9 record the Bearcats produced stands as one of the best in the history of the program.

Although the team’s chemistry level may be ideal now, that may not have always been the case according to head coach Ryan Anderson.

“Now we have players that want to be around each other,” Anderson said. “It’s taken us a while to weed some people out and get a good, cohesive team.”

The result of this cohesion is a 17-5 conference record that clinched a spot in the conference tournament

April 28. Considering the MIAA tournament is over two weeks away, Anderson still has a blueprint in place for what he says will be keys to a successful tournament run.

“Hopefully by the time the (conference) tournament rolls around, everything is lined up,” Anderson said. “We’re swinging the bats when we need to because when you get to conference, strange things happen such as teams winning that aren’t supposed to.”

Sitting at third place in conference rankings with a win percentage of .77, the Bearcats can rest comfortably knowing their spot in the conference tournament is secure.

But according to Anderson, there is still a lot of work left to do.

SEE **SOFTBALL** | **A10**

Greenslade’s career rises from the ashes

JACOB BLAND
Sports Editor | @J_Bland93

For the last two seasons, junior outfielder Kolby Greenslade’s performance and leadership on the baseball diamond has proven to be indispensable to the Northwest baseball team.



Coming into the season, the Bearcats were picked to finish 12 out of 14 teams and were not given much of a chance to compete in the MIAA.

Similar to the Bearcats’ predicted finish, doctors did not give Greenslade much of a chance and told him he would never play the sport again after a devastating bonfire accident.

Two years later, Greenslade has developed into one of the most consistent players on the team.

Behind Greenslade and his teammates’ efforts, Northwest has proven the naysayers wrong.

“He’s definitely made an impact as far as his leadership and his work ethic,” assistant head coach Mike Creason said. “I think it is appealing and goes hand in hand with what he had to overcome. I feel like our team works really hard around him.”

Before coming to Northwest, Greenslade spent his freshman season playing baseball at Fort Scott Community College, located in Fort Scott, Kansas.

After a successful campaign, Greenslade and his teammates decided to celebrate by having a bonfire on his birthday. Unfortunately, the team lost control of the bonfire.

In an effort to regain control of the fire, Greenslade was injured when a gas can exploded.

The explosion left Greenslade with massive burns on his arms and legs and a lengthy hospital stay.

“I had to pretty much learn how to walk again because the skin grafts were in bad places,” Greenslade said.

Before the accident, Greenslade received an offer to play for the University of Iowa, but due to the accident, there was a lack of communication between the two sides and Greenslade’s offer fell through.

To make matters worse, doctors told Greenslade that he would probably never play again.

Despite the uncertainty, Greenslade remained determined to continue his career.

“I thought to myself (after the accident) baseball has been a big part of my life,” Greenslade said. “When they said (I would not play again), I was determined to get back and use that as motivation to play again.”

After Greenslade was released from the hospital, he had months of rehab in front of him.

SEE **GREENSLADE** | **A10**

Historic season raises eyebrows among the Bearcat softball faithful



TREY RANDLE
Chief Sports Reporter
@treyrocks36

Whenever a force prospers for too long, nature has tendency to restore order.

The Italian industrial revolution had the Bubonic Plague, the Beatles had Yoko Ono and now the traditional powers of the MIAA conference can’t help but stand idle as this year’s Northwest Missouri State softball team runs rampant through regular season play.

While most teams hang their hats on one specific area, Northwest finds solace in knowing its strength is not limited to just that.

If the hitters struggle, the pitching rotation rises to the occasion. If the pitchers struggle, the defense provides support. From top to bottom, all the necessary tools to succeed are in place for the Bearcats.

Earlier in the season, skepticism was a common trend.

After years of failing to pull off a 30-win season, this year’s rendition of Bearcat softball just wanted to prove everyone wrong, beginning with those who initially ranked them as a potential fifth seed.

Two months later and Northwest sits at 33-9. Not only is the team finding success in regards to its record, players are racking up regular season accolades as well.

Senior pitcher Sarah Baldwin was named

MIAA pitcher of the week for the second time this season, marking the fourth time a player from Northwest has been given that honor, tying Pittsburg State for the most in the conference.

Hearing the seniors on the team are producing should come as no surprise. After all, that is the entire point of being an experienced leader.

But not only are the seniors contributing in an all-conference capacity, underclassmen have also stepped up.

Freshman Alexis Kelsey leads the team with nine home runs and sophomore Rebecca Maher has been efficient at the plate, recording three doubles on three different occasions, which has only been done twice in the history of the program.

According to senior Madison Jones, the time each player invested into the program and with each other is finally beginning to come to fruition.

“One through nine, we have faith in everyone,” Jones said. “Even the people coming off of the bench. The chemistry on this year’s team is the best I’ve seen in my four years of being here.”

Perhaps it is the winning that has allowed for such a prosperous environment. After all, there is no better cure for a disgruntled team than winning.

That’s not to say players were upset with the situation of the team, it just makes spending time with each other that much more enjoyable when winning is the main result.

SEE **HISTORIC** | **A10**